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IDENTIFIERS	*Mckee (Howard Joseph Jr); Nebraska; *Winnebago (Tribe)

ABSTRACT

A biography for elementary school students describes Howard Joseph McKee, Jr, an American Indian elder who teaches the Winnebago language and is developing a system for translating it into English. Mr. McKee's photograph and a map of Nebraska reservations are included. A teaching guide following the bibliography contains learning objectives and activities, directions for teachers, vocabulary list, resources list, and an evaluation checklist. (LFL)

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Photograph Courtesy of: Howard Joseph McKee, Jr.

HOWARD JOSEPH McKEE, JR.

WINNEBAGO

TRADITIONALIST

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HOWARD JOSEPH McKEE, JR.

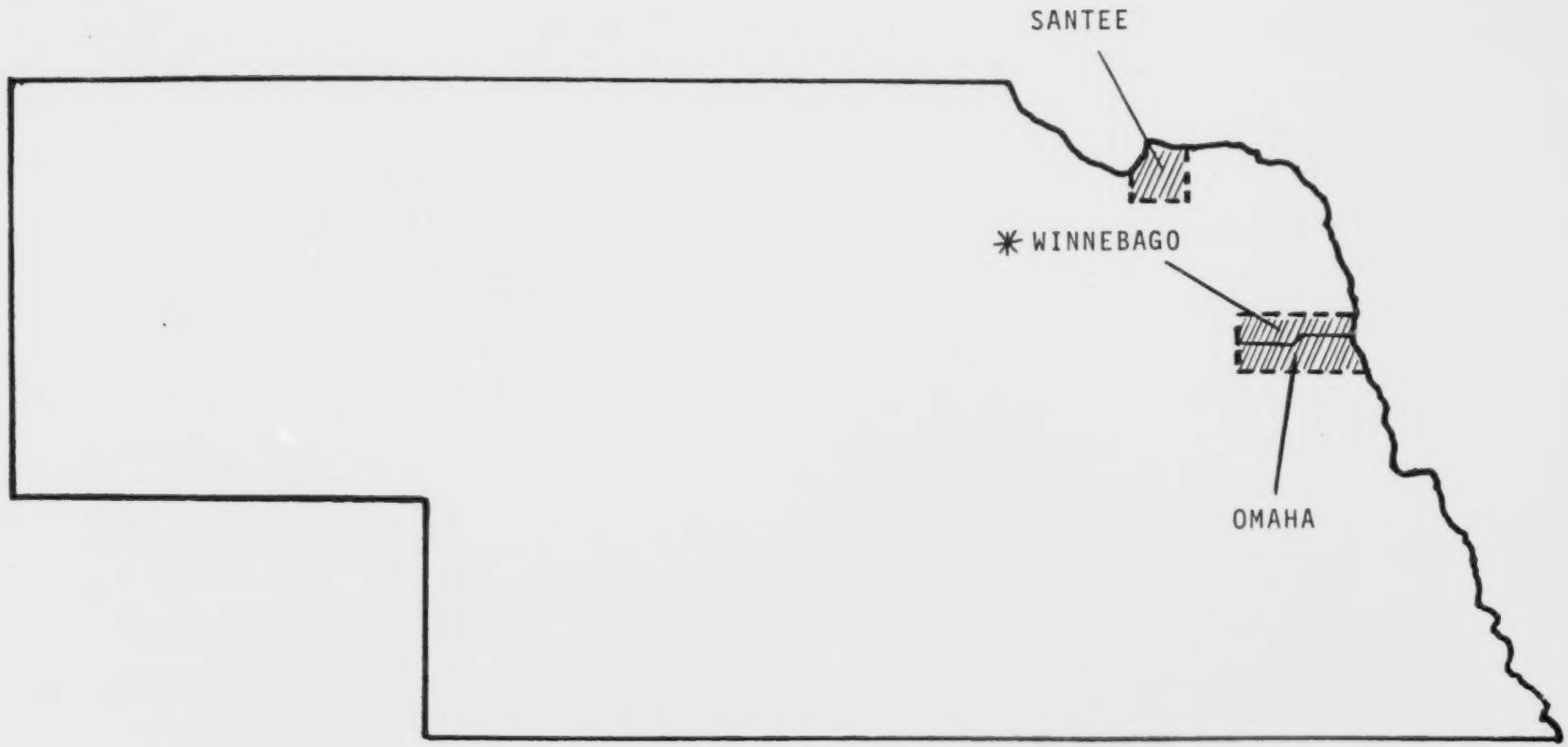
WINNEBAGO

TRADITIONALIST

Howard Joseph McKee, Jr., was the only child born to Howard McKee, Sr., and Mary Seymore McKee, both Winnebago Indians. Howard, Jr. was born on July 12, 1898 in Winnebago, Nebraska. He is enrolled with the Nebraska band of Winnebagos. There is also a band of Winnebagos in Wisconsin. The two bands were formed when the United States Government established a Winnebago reservation in Nebraska. Some of the Winnebago people chose to remain in Wisconsin, their traditional homeland.

As Howard was growing up, his parents taught him to respect all forms of life, whether that life was another human being or one of the animals of the forest. Howard was taught that people were to look upon animals as brothers. To kill animals, when there is no need, is wasteful and unforgivable. The Winnebago people taught their children to respect other people and their property. Respect for elders is one of the most important lessons a child is taught. The elders of the tribe frequently tell stories to the children. These stories are very informative and serve as a major means of educating the children. The old people have experienced many things in life and are considered wise and knowledgeable. Howard inherited the Winnebago traditions and values from his

MAP OF NEBRASKA



✳ WINNEBAGO INDIAN RESERVATION - BIRTHPLACE OF HOWARD JOSEPH McKEE, JR.

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parents and the people of his village. The Indian people look upon the children of the tribe as one family. In this way, the children have many mothers and fathers to look to for advice. As a child, Howard learned to be a dependable member of the tribe.

Howard married Nellie Houghton in 1915 and they remained married until she died in 1949. They had eight children: four sons, Vern, Harold, Raymond, and Morton; and four daughters, Helen, Delores, Rebecca, and Mildred.

When Howard married Nellie Houghton, he decided that in order to become a good provider he had to obtain a decent job. The reservation where he lived had very few occupations and those were soon filled. Howard decided to seek employment elsewhere, which meant leaving the reservation.

After Howard left the reservation, he sought work in various places. He settled in the city of Albert Lea, Minnesota, where he was hired as an electrician, and learned the trade mostly on his own. After a short period of time, Howard worked his way up to foreman and remained at this position until he retired at the age of 72 years.

Howard was certified on March 15, 1972 by the State of Minnesota, Department of Education, to teach the Winnebago language. He and his oldest son, Vern, have spent many years developing a system for translating the Winnebago language into English. Howard is now in the process of perfecting this work. It is a long and tedious task which requires much effort.

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TEACHER'S GUIDE

NATIVE AMERICANS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
HOWARD JOSEPH McKEE, JR.
WINNEBAGO
TRADITIONALIST

I. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The staff of the Indian Elementary Curriculum Project wishes to thank the following for helping to make this biographical study unit possible:

Patrick Des Jarlait, Jr., for the illustrations in the Student Booklet;
Howard Joseph McKee, Jr., for the information about his life, for the photograph used in the Student Booklet, and for the Winnebago legends he provided.

II. CURRICULUM UNIT

Native Americans of the Twentieth Century -- Howard Joseph McKee, Jr.

III. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

See the Howard Joseph McKee, Jr. booklet.

IV. STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Activity Sheet: Crossword Puzzle

V. OBJECTIVES

A. Given the background information:

1. The students will correctly state that Howard Joseph McKee, Jr. is a member of the Winnebago tribe.

2. The students will correctly state that one band of the Winnebago tribe is located in Nebraska and one in Wisconsin.

3. The students will correctly state that Howard Joseph McKee, Jr. is a member of the Nebraska band.

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4. The students will correctly define respect as showing regard or consideration.

5. The students will correctly state that respect for elders is a traditional Indian value.

6. The students will correctly identify storytelling as an important contribution of elders.

B. The students will accurately locate the Winnebago Reservation on a map of Nebraska.

VI. MATERIALS NEEDED

A. Howard Joseph McKee, Jr. booklet.

B. Activity Sheet, duplicated for each student.

VII. DIRECTIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR TEACHERS

A. Tell the students about the life of Howard Joseph McKee, Jr. and discuss the information provided in the booklet, emphasizing the following points: his membership in the Winnebago tribe; the location of the Winnebago bands; the importance of elders; and storytelling and its significance to Indian people.

B. Have the students locate the Winnebago bands on maps of Nebraska and Wisconsin.

C. Identify some of the values that Howard Joseph McKee, Jr. was taught as a child (respect for all forms of life; respect for property; and respect for elders). Have the students give examples of how these values can be expressed today (helping elders cross the street; listening attentively; and others).

D. Have the students identify possible members of an extended family (grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, in addition to parent(s) and children).

VIII. CONCEPTS AND VOCABULARY

A. Band - a subdivision of a tribe; for example, the Nebraska band of Winnebago Indians.

B. Elder - an older person.

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C. Extended family - a family whose members extend beyond parent(s) and children.

D. Reservation - a tract of land set apart, as for an Indian tribe.

E. Respect - to show regard or consideration.

F. Tradition - the passing down of customs, beliefs, legends and so forth from one generation to the next.

G. Traditionalist - a person who passes down customs, beliefs, and legends from one generation to the next.

H. Tribe - a group of individuals bound together by the same cultural heritage. A tribe can have smaller divisions, such as bands and clans. It is also a unit of government.

I. Winnebago - a North American tribe of Indian people who call themselves Hochungra (Hō chä´gä rä). One band of Winnebagos is located in Nebraska and one in Wisconsin.

IX. ACTIVITY VARIATIONS

A. Read the Winnebago legends retold by Howard Joseph McKee, Jr. and use the guides that accompany them.

B. Have the students retell stories that were told to them by elders.

C. Have the students list ideas and values that they would like to see maintained.

X. RESOURCES

GreenCrow, Henry. Henry GreenCrow Visits the Schools. St. Paul, Minnesota: St. Paul Public Schools, 1973.

Radin, Paul. The Trickster, A Study in American Indian Mythology.. New York: Schocken Books, 1972.

Radin, Paul. The Winnebago Tribe. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1973.

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XI. EVALUATION

A. Did the students state that Howard Joseph McKee, Jr. is a member of the Winnebago tribe?

B. Did the students state that one band of the Winnebago tribe is located in Nebraska and one in Wisconsin?

C. Did the students state that Howard Joseph McKee, Jr. is a member of the Nebraska band?

D. Did the students correctly define respect?

E. Did the students state that respect for elders is a traditional Indian value?

F. Did the students identify storytelling as an important contribution of elders?

G. Did the students accurately locate the Winnebago Reservation on a map of Nebraska?

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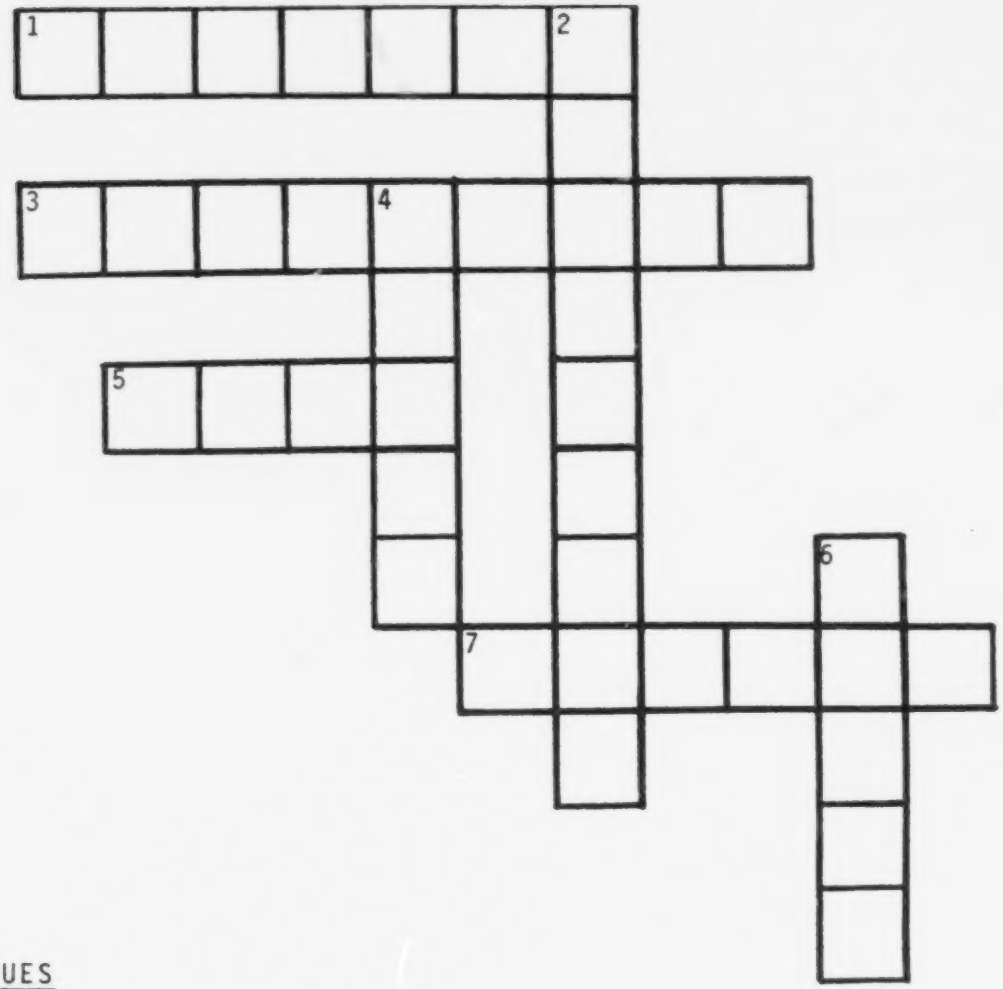
HOWARD JOSEPH McKEE, JR.

ACTIVITY SHEET: CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES

ACROSS:

1. To show regard or consideration.
3. Howard McKee belongs to what tribe of Indians.
5. A subdivision of a tribe.
7. Mr. McKee's first name.

DOWN:

2. The passing down of customs, beliefs, legends and so forth from one generation to the next.
4. An older person.
6. A group of individuals bound together by the same cultural heritage.

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HOWARD JOSEPH McKEE, JR.

ACTIVITY SHEET: CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ANSWERS

ACROSS:

1. respect
3. Winnebago
5. band
7. Howard

DOWN:

2. elder
4. tradition
6. tribe

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